

HISTORIC URBAN NEIGHBORHOODS OF INDIANAPOLIS (HUNI)

ANNUAL MEETING

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2014, 9:00 A.M.

INDIANAPOLIS FIREFIGHTERS UNION HALL AND MUSEUM

Attendees: Clay Miller, Chatham Arch; Maribeth Bailey, Cottage Home; Joan Hostetler, Cottage Home; Glenn Blackwood, Fletcher Place; Jim Garrettson, Forest Hills and Meridian-Kessler; Lauren Comstock, Herron-Morton Place; Chris Maroldo, Irvington; Justin Miller, Irvington; Linda Sturges, Lockerbie Square; Marjorie Kienle, Lockerbie Square; Lorraine Vavul, Meridian Park; Julia Pratt, Old Speedway; Andy Sheff, Ransom Place; Paula Brooks, 1000 Block MLK, Ransom Place; Gary Chilluffo, St. Joseph; Missy Ellis, Woodruff Place; Sharon Butsch Freeland, Individual, and Chad Lethig, Indiana Landmarks.

President Marjorie Kienle called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m. Marjorie asked that members direct any corrections or additions to the November 2013 meeting minutes to Sharon Butsch Freeland.

Marjorie then discussed the fact that the HUNI Bylaws had not been revised since 1997. As the organization has evolved over its seventeen years of existence, the Bylaws need to be revised to reflect current practices. The term of office for the president was originally one year but needs to be amended to three years. In addition, there was originally no secretary, so the president appointed one.

Marjorie presented a slate of officers for approval by the members. They included Tom Abeel, Vice President; Sharon Butsch Freeland, Secretary; and Chad Lethig, Treasurer. Jim Garrettson of Meridian-Kessler made a motion to accept. Chris Maroldo of Irvington seconded. The motion carried.

Marjorie requested that all members send in their annual membership dues to Chad Lethig at Indiana Landmarks. The dues are \$15 for neighborhood organizations and \$5 for individuals.

Marjorie thanked Clay Miller and Chatham Arch - Mass Ave for hosting the meeting. A retired firefighter will give a tour of the facility following the adjournment of the HUNI meeting.

Marjorie Introduced guest speaker Michael Huber, President and CEO of the Indy Chamber. Prior to his current position, Mike served as Senior Director of Commercial Enterprise at the Indianapolis Airport Authority and was Deputy Mayor of Indianapolis. He also worked in Mitch Daniels' administration and was an associate professor at IUPUI. He has a B.S. from Northwestern University and an M.S. from the Kelley School of Business at Indiana University.

Mike explained that he didn't seek the Chamber job. He enjoyed working for the City of Indianapolis and being involved in projects around town. He was concerned that the Chamber might not be relevant in a few years, but he's learned otherwise. It's less and less a social club and more and more a problem solving group. The Chamber looks at problems facing not just Indianapolis but the 9-county region, as well. Angie's List and ExactTarget have recently joined the Chamber, which he feels is indicative of its value.

The growing poverty rate in Indianapolis is a serious issue. Education is at the top of the list of solutions. Mike's mother was a pre-kindergarten teacher, so he is a big believer in early childhood education. He does not feel that Indiana has invested in education as much as it should. People need tools to lift them out of poverty. The IPS Superintendent has asked for the Chamber's help, so members have served as volunteers analyzing IPS policies and programs.

Regarding the City's focus, the paradigm has shifted from making taxes the force to making economic development the force. The organizing principle is to increase the population of Indianapolis by 50,000 people who make \$50,000 a year.

The city has had at least 1,500 new apartment units built every year for the last five years, but starter homes for young families are not being built. The city needs to be attractive to young families, so that they don't move out for better housing or better educational options.

Regarding the commuter tax, 205,000 people drive into Marion County from the suburbs to work, and 40,000 drive out of Marion County to work in other counties.

A local option income tax has been vetted at the Indy Chamber several times over the years.

A controversial issue in recent months was HJR-3. The Chamber got involved in that issue early on. 90% of the Chamber members are opposed to a ban on same-sex marriage.

Jeff Miller, Zach Adams, and John Barth are City-County Councillors who advocate for historic preservation.

HUNI neighborhood representatives reported the following news:

Meridian-Kessler meetings were cancelled in recent weeks due to the harsh winter weather.

Meridian Park may decide to have a home tour in 2014.

Fletcher Place had board elections in January. The same person will continue as president.

Woodruff Place will have a Casino Night on March 1. WP also has an EID Discovery Committee. Looking for ways to fund maintenance of fountains, lights, sculptures, etc.

1000 block of Ransom Place is working on issues regarding parking, sidewalks, and traffic volume.

Ransom place is working on better relationship with IUPUI. Also about to roll out a website.

St. Joseph invites everyone to a February 26th Happy Hour at the Parkview Banquet Room above the Elbow Room.

"Hoosier History Live" radio program on WICR 88.7 will host its annual anniversary event on Thursday, February 27th at Indiana Landmarks.

Speedway has had a major turnover in its board. Redevelopment continues, including a roundabout.

Irvington hosted its 67th annual Hallowe'en festival. About 10,000 people showed up. Irvington has a new not-for-profit foundation. 18 traffic signal boxes have been painted. The Pennsy Trail will be coming through Irvington. Black Acre Brewing Co. has opened at 5632 E. Washington Street. Bonna Avenue bricks need to be replaced. Cost will be about \$400,000.

Herron-Morton Place has adopted 18 blocks from Keep Indianapolis Beautiful. Still have 15 blocks to go. H-M P hopes to mount 28 banners on light poles, which will cost about \$7,000. The neighborhood is also trying out a "Welcome Wagon" type package for new residents.

Cottage Home alternates with Woodruff Place for the neighborhoods' home tours. This year is Cottage Home's turn. Twilight Tour will be Friday, May 16. Regular Home Tour will be Saturday, May 17 and Sunday, 18. Will have live music and Flat 12 Beer. Raised about \$30,000 for a community park. Ursula David has built a contemporary home at 10th and Highland. Leo Stenz and Jerry Jones plan to build 15-16 cottages.

Chatham Arch has a home tour every other year. Will work on their neighborhood park. The City installed the Otterness Sculpture, but Chatham Arch needs to raise the money for electricity and maintenance. They would like to retrofit the sculpture with new energy-efficient lights.

Lockerbie is excited about the new James Whitcomb Riley Education Center, adjacent to the Riley home. Parking continues to be a problem in Lockerbie. The neighborhood wants to engage more young people to move in, as the perception among some outsiders is that everyone in Lockerbie is old. A number of high end homes have been built in Lockerbie in recent times. Lockerbie has decided it's too much work for the money generated to have tours of the interiors of Lockerbie homes, but they are in favor of walking tours of the neighborhood.

May is Preservation Month. Indiana Landmarks will be hosting 90-minute walking tours of five neighborhoods in May. Neighborhoods toured -- one on each of the five Thursdays in May -- will be Old Speedway, Cottage Home, Meridian Park, Lockerbie, and Old Northside.

Joan Hostetler will conduct a workshop on how to research your home. Stay tuned for further details.

Marjorie passed out the HUNI bylaws. Please review. We will vote on the changes at the May meeting.

The next HUNI Quarterly meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 1, 5:30 p.m., at Indiana Landmarks Center, 1201 Central Avenue Guest speaker will be Sherry Siewert of Indianapolis Downtown Inc.

President Marjorie Kienle adjourned the meeting at 11:17 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Butsch Freeland
Secretary